

Immediate Release:

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Altus Municipal Authority receives \$22,500,000 wastewater system loan from OWRB

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Altus Municipal Authority (Authority) received approval for a \$22,500,000 loan Thursday from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to improve the Authority's wastewater infrastructure. Construction of upgrades and improvements to the wastewater system will be financed by the Oklahoma Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

The Authority will utilize the proceeds to address a sanitary sewer loop replacement to correct inflow and infiltration issues, to deliver treated grey water from the wastewater treatment plant to irrigate the municipal golf course and public spaces, for rehabilitation of their southeast wastewater treatment plant, relocation of sewer lines, and replacement of manholes. These improvements will help to prevent unwanted contaminants from entering Stinking Creek, reduce unintended flows to the wastewater treatment plant, improve inflow and infiltration, and address Oklahoma's Water for 2060 goals by focusing on water efficiency through grey water reuse.

Joe Freeman, chief of the OWRB's Financial Assistance Division, calculated that the Authority's customers will save an estimated \$10,804,300 over the life of the 30-year loan compared to traditional financing. The CWSRF loan will be secured with a lien on the revenues of the Authority's water and sewer systems. Altus' City Manager, Gary Jones, stated, "Altus appreciates the Board's consideration. This project will allow us to have a consistent plan for wastewater improvement."

The CWSRF program is administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board with partial funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CWSRF program has provided approximately \$2.4 billion in water quality loans to Oklahoma communities; assisting with resources necessary to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources statewide.

Since 1983, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has approved over \$6.14 billion in loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout Oklahoma.

"We are grateful to State Senator Brent Howard and Representative Gerrid Kendrix for their support of our financial assistance programs," said Julie Cunningham, Executive Director of the OWRB.



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